

# Minuteman

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## Wing announces annual award winners

**By Staff Sgt. Brannen Parrish**  
*Public Affairs*

The names are in for the airman, noncommissioned and senior NCO of the year awards and in typical fashion 94th Security Forces Squadron was well represented.

Security Forces produced the winners of the Airman and Senior NCO of the year as well as the wing's First Sergeant of the year. The 94th Maintenance Squadron provided the NCO of the Year.

Rewarding superior performance is an important part of the 94th SFS morale maintaining and boosting philosophy. Security Forces has produced seven of the last 12 quarterly award winners.

"We have good, sharp professional troops and it's my job to ensure they are recognized for their work," said Maj. Jeff Tousignant, 94th SFS. "I think the fact that the security forces squadron is well represented says a lot about our perseverance in putting people up."

Airman 1st Class Dominique James, a fire team member for 94th SFS, who is currently serving in Afghanistan, was named Airman of the Year for her motivation, positive attitude and appearance. Before being sent to Afghanistan, James was often seen on entry-control duty at the front gate.

"We try to put the people with the best attitude and appearance at the front entrance because they are often the first and last representative for the Air Force and Dobbins that many civilians will see,"

said Tousignant. "She is the epitome of the type of airman I want to represent the Air Force and base."

Staff. Sgt. Wendy Blevins, an electronic warfare specialist with the 94th Maintenance Squadron, may not carry a sidearm or have a combat-arms specialty, but she helps ensure aircraft crews are secure. Blevins, an air reserve technician during the week, is responsible for defensive avionics systems that protect the Wing's aircraft from heat seeking weapons.

She is one of a pair of electronic warfare specialists in her squadron.

"I'm really surprised I won because we make up one of the smaller shops and we don't really get a lot of attention; I heard the competition was really stiff but I don't even know what they wrote about me in the nomination packet," she said.

The Senior NCO of the Year, Master Sgt. Rocky R. Epps, a security forces craftsman, credits his success to the support he received from the unit and his wife.

"Coming to work is what keeps me going because I have people who believe in me and trust me to get the job done," said Epps. "The most important thing is the support I've received from my wife and family. We have two small children at home and I can only be home two days out of the week, but she has never wavered in her support of me and what I'm doing."

The First Sergeant of the Year isn't selected by a committee or board but by other first sergeants.

The first sergeants within the wing



Photo by Don Peek

**Master Sgt. Rocky Epps, Staff Sgt. Wendy Blevins and Senior Master Sgt. Don Johnson.**

vote on several nominees and decide who will be acknowledged. This year's recipient possibly had the toughest job. Security Forces personnel work grueling, 12-hour shifts and their state of minds are important to the security of the base.

Senior Master Sgt. Don Johnson was activated during Noble Eagle. He went through the augmentee program and has been working with security forces the entire year.

"I think all first sergeants are top notch," said Johnson because as a first sergeant your job is to take care of your people to know that I was selected by my peers is an honor."



**Airman 1st Class Dominique James is currently serving in Afghanistan.**

## Air Force extends current, upcoming deployments

**By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham**  
*Air Force Print News*

**WASHINGTON** — Currently and soon-to-be deployed airmen will remain deployed longer than the previously targeted three-month rotation, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper announced Jan. 28 in a message to all airmen. The change was made to meet the needs of combatant commanders.

Specifically, active-duty and mobilized Reserve component airmen deployed with Air and Space Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8 and those deploying as part of new taskings ordered by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld Dec. 24 should anticipate remaining in place until further notice, Jumper said in the message.

Airmen in some "stressed" career fields have already been extended beyond three months.

The need for additional forces is part of a buildup of air power in Southwest Asia, ready to achieve national security objectives if directed by the president.

"We must interrupt our normal three-month AEF rotation cycle because the resources in a single AEF pair can no longer satisfy the needs of our combatant commands," Jumper said.

The general said that the change would likely increase the amount of time many airmen are forward deployed. But, he added, it is a necessary move and one he feels will be taken in stride by airmen everywhere.

"I know this is a lot to ask, and I am confident that every airman understands we have been called upon once

again by our nation," he said. "Our success as an Air Force depends on how we prepare for and execute operations."

Jumper's words echoed those in a message sent by Rumsfeld the same day to people in the Department of Defense.

"In recent weeks and months, the president has called the world's attention to Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq," Rumsfeld said. "He has rallied the United Nations to enforce its resolutions calling for the regime's disarmament."

In light of these developments, DOD leaders recognize the uncertainty longer deployments may create for those in uniform, the civilians who work beside them,

**See Deployments on page 3**



# Emergency data card now web-based application

**By Maj. John Thomas**  
*AFPC Public Affairs*

**AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER** – More than a week before its planned launch, the brand new web-based emergency data card helped more than 1,000 airmen in Alaska mobilize for a real-world deployment.

Now, sooner than expected, airmen can update their emergency contact information from any web-connected computer, from home or work rather than visiting their military personnel flights.

Called the Virtual Record of Emergency Data, or vRED, the new form provides the Air Force with information needed to contact family members if an

airman suffers a serious illness or injury, or dies while on active duty.

The vRED replaces the DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, and will need to be kept updated by each individual.

Now the only way to update an airman's emergency data is by visiting the virtual MPF online.

Reverve members at Dobbins have until midnight Mar. 2 to update their information, according to Diane Freeman, 94th Airlift Wing casualty service office.

Originally scheduled to kick off Jan. 27, the program was pressed into service early to help out mobility processing for some Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska airmen, officials said.

Once on, within the first week more than 20,000 other people completed the form upon logging in to the Virtual Military Personnel Flight on the personnel center's web site.

Accurate and current family contact information can prevent delays of medical, casualty and death benefits for airmen and family members, officials said.

It also avoids hours or even days of uncertainty during which casualty teams are sometimes left to track next of kin.

Once a person completes the form, they will be able to go in any time and update their information.

Personnel officials encourage all active-duty, Guard and Reserve members to update their information every six

months, prior to deployments, and after permanent changes of station.

On the AFPC web page, [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil), people can select the "vMPF" logo at the top of the page. New vMPF users will need to establish an account.

The online application, which will take most people about 15 minutes, asks questions such as who are the relatives who should be contacted and what are their addresses.

Paper-based copies will still be available for those without internet access, officials said.

For more information about the vMPF call the Air Force Contact Center at 1 (866) 229-7074.

## New program expands space available travel for family members

**By Senior Airman Micky Cordiviola**  
*Public Affairs*

Traveling with family members across the country has just become more convenient and economical.

Beginning April 1, dependents of active duty and retired uniformed services members will be allowed to travel space-available within the continental United States when accompanied by their sponsors.

The Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense has approved a one-year test to evaluate the expansion of space-available privileges. The test lasts through April 1, 2004.

"Current regulations prohibit dependents from flying space available within the CONUS," said John Lundebly from the Air Mobility Command passenger policy branch. "This privilege was available only to active-duty and retired military people."

Lundebly explained that in December 2000, the commander of U.S. Transportation Command outlined the proposal as a way to improve quality-of-life benefits for military service people and their families.

Active-duty servicemembers must be in a leave or pass status to register for space-available travel, remain in a leave or pass status while awaiting travel, and be in leave or pass status the entire period of travel.

"Reservists still need to fill the proper form DD 1853 to travel space-available," said Wesley Jones, Dobbins airfield manager. "People flying space-available must report three hours prior to departure. The only flights scheduled at Dobbins are UTA shuttle flights, but the Navy flies all over the world and may have more space-available opportunities."

Retired members may sign up 60 days in advance but no earlier than April 1. Retirees must also arrive three hours prior to any departure.

For more information concerning space-available travel and sign-up procedures review the Air Mobility Command public web site at <http://amcpubscott.scott.af.mil/Spacea/spacea.htm>.

## Mammogram screening moved to April

**By Senior Airman Reid Hanna**  
*Public Affairs*

The mammogram procedures scheduled to take place March 1 and 2 have been rescheduled for April 5 and 6.

Servicewomen age 40 and over must complete a mammogram screening every three years, said Capt. (Dr.) Paul Harvey, a 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron physician.

"One in eight women will develop breast cancer," said Harvey. "Among women, breast cancer is the second leading cause of death."

The mammogram and self-tests are the only means of early detection of breast cancer, said Harvey. Because of this, the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute recommend women over 20 do self-

exams monthly and women over 40 have mammograms every year.

Recent studies show early detection results in a 24 percent decrease in the death rate of women with breast cancer.

Mammograms test breast tissue for cysts, benign and malignant abnormalities by flattening the breast then taking a low-radiation X-ray of the tissue. The tissue must remain immobile or the X-ray image will blur.

"An important preparation for the mammogram is to avoid talc, powder and deodorant," Harvey said.

These products can cause a false reading or an unclear image of the breast tissue. No one wants to do multiple readings, Harvey said.

Servicewomen must sign up for the screening with Master Sgt. Maxen Whaley of the 94th ASTS at 678-655-4995.



Photo by Don Peek

## Top three inducts new members

During its quarterly meeting last month, the Dobbins Top Three inducted the latest group of newly promoted master sergeants. Issued the oath and congratulated by Col. James Glenn, 94th Airlift Wing vice commander, the new master sergeants lined the walls of the Base Chapel for the ceremony. "I'm from

the old school," said Master Sgt. Ernest Farmer, 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron mental health technician.

"I believe master sergeants are the ones who make sure the job gets done and I'm proud to be part of this elite group," he added.



# World events shape recruiting efforts

## Recruiters notice strong sense of patriotism among recruits following 9/11

By Senior Airman Micky Cordiviola  
Public Affairs

Immediately after Sept. 11, recruiting at Dobbins became a temporary challenge to recruiters and transformed the overall perception of the military among potential recruits.

"After Sept. 11, recruiting slowed down dramatically," said Master Sgt. Dave Pierson, lead recruiter. "Many individuals interested in joining the Reserve experienced a sense of uncertainty after the terrorist attacks. We received many calls from individuals that were not sure what was going to happen next and wanted to take the 'wait and see' approach."

For a short period of months recruiters noticed that the amount of inquiries about joining the Air Force Reserve dropped dramatically.

As quickly as the drop in inquiries occurred, an

immediate about face took place.

"Shortly after the period of slow down, we noticed a sharp increase in interested applicants," said Master Sgt. Mark Clark, recruiter. "The mood of the nation had an influence on the youth of America that spread patriotism positively. The events of 9/11 could have pushed a lot of people into hiding."

The mood of potential recruits changed from seeking certain benefits to personal reasons to the philosophy that they were there to help out in any way that could.

"Right away, I noticed that the post Sept. 11 recruits had a strong sense of patriotism," said Pierson. "They were no longer concerned about what type of jobs were available or school benefits. These recruits were on a mission to contribute in any way that they could to make a difference."

As time went along, the recruiters were faced with a challenge that did not necessarily involve the recruits.

"Non-prior service recruits did not seem frightened by the factor of war," said Pierson. "Their parents were the ones asking the tough questions and having many doubts about their child signing up for military service. Parents have a huge influence over their children's decision. We wanted to make sure that all their questions and concerns were addressed."

Another obstacle placed in front of recruiters dealt with the increase in security. Prior to Sept. 11 people were able to enter the base with a civilian identification.

However, after the attacks, recruiters were required to escort all recruits on base.

"It is not a problem when you need to escort recruits here onto Dobbins," said Clark. "The extra burden was having to meet potential recruits at Fort Gillem for their physical. It was just another obstacle that we were able to tackle."

Since the first few months after the terror attacks, recruiters haven't missed a step in reaching their recruiting goals.

"There has been an increase in both non prior and prior-service recruits," said Pierson. "But overall, we still receive more interest from prior service than non priors. The sense of overwhelming pride in country from both groups still rings strong today."



Photo by Don Peek

Reserve recruiter Master Sgt. Mark Clark explains the paperwork to a potential recruit during an interview.

## Mobilization may affect child support orders

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** — Mobilized reservists who have a child support order can seek assistance from their state child support agency, especially under the following circumstances:

■ Level of income has changed or will change as the result of mobilization. They may be eligible for the agency to review and adjust the amount of their support order.

■ Support payments are being withheld from military paycheck. The state agency can ensure the withholding is transferred to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service on a timely basis to prevent or minimize missed payments. Reservists can ask their civilian employer to tell the state agency about their deployment and to provide other needed information.

■ A child support hearing is scheduled. The agency can tell the court or hearing officer about the reservist's service status and can attempt to have the hearing rescheduled.

■ The child support order includes health care coverage. Children of mobilized reservists are eligible for Tricare health coverage, and the agency may be able to help enroll them in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, a prerequisite to obtaining coverage.

If people owe \$5,000 or more in past-due child support, their passports are withheld until arrangements are made with the state child support agency for paying off the debt. Some states require the debt to be paid before the passport is made available. If reservists need a passport to complete their military duties, this could create a problem for them, as well as their assigned military unit.

For more information on child support issues, mobilized Air Force reservists can contact the nearest active-duty legal office or their Air Force Reserve Command wing legal office. They can also obtain more information from state child support enforcement agencies on the Web at the following:

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#esta](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#esta)  
(State and local IV-D agencies on the Web)  
and

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/im-01-09.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/im-01-09.htm)  
(OCSE Information Memorandum IM-01-09).

The Department of Defense provides assistance at the following Web site:  
[www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal)  
under "family law matters."

### Deployments from page 1

and their families, Rumsfeld said.

"Be assured that the president will not decide to commit forces unless conditions require it, and only as a last resort," Rumsfeld said. "Should action be necessary, you will have what you need to carry out the missions assigned."

The chief of staff said every effort will be made to relieve those deployed in a way that accommodates mission requirements.

"I assure you that we will continue

to assess the evolving situation and develop rotation plans which seek to relieve our forces in the most equitable fashion while still meeting combatant commanders' warfighting requirements," Jumper added. "Although AEF rotation timing will change, we will make every effort to preserve the AEF sequence which will give us the ability to sustain our operations over the long term."

"When able, we will return to a more normalized three-month AEF battle rhythm."

Although that rhythm is intended to

provide airmen and their families with a predictable schedule for deployments, resulting in a more normal lifestyle, an implicit understanding is that increased operations tempo changes everything, Jumper said.

"Sustaining on-going requirements with three-month rotations has become part of our Air Force culture," Jumper said. "But we need to remember that the AEF structure also allows us to posture for a full range of combat operations, including major theater contingencies that require more forces than can be provided

by one AEF pair on a three-month rotation."

It is a national security matter, he said, one in which the efforts of the entire Air Force team will be needed.

"I have never been (more proud) of our Air Force and of the great men and women that bring America's resolve to the doorsteps of those who would seek to inflict harm upon us and our allies," he said. "I know you are all equal to the task, and I look forward to seeing our great Air Force continue to successfully defend American values and freedoms."



## In uniform, we have responsibility to protect image and safeguard OPSEC



**By Chief Master Sgt. David Curtis**  
94th Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs superintendent

I received a phone call earlier this year from one of our Dobbins ARB neighbors. It bothered me because he was embarrassed to talk about it, but was concerned and upset enough that he had to call our office.

Basically, we let him and his family down. They were dining at a restaurant

near the base, when several reservists entered and turned what should have been a normal Sunday lunch into a real eye opener for this father and his family.

The reservists conducted themselves in an unprofessional manner with crude and loud language to the point that he felt the need to cut the meal short and take his family out.

To make matters worse, his family wasn't alone. He saw several other groups leave because of the behavior of these Air Force Reserve members. The behavior of these reservists was unacceptable in or out of uniform.

What we choose to say and do as members of our community, we as individuals must bear the responsibility for it.

But, when we're in uniform it's a different ballgame. We represent the Air Force and there are no gray lines for behavior and professionalism.

It's always important that we are mindful of what we do and say in our communities.

Our uniforms are eye catching and groups of military personnel in public settings bring attention. People listen to us.

That's what happened last month when a group of reservists were talking about the status of smallpox vaccinations

unit by unit.

The information was relayed to the media, who in turned called the base wanting to verify the information they had. Operational security is everyone's concern right now. Briefed information is for the ears of the persons hearing it and only them.

Unknowingly, our people provided detailed information about their briefing to the community.

Occasionally we all enjoy a lunch off base. It's fun, good for camaraderie, and brings the team together. These outings always produce plenty of laughter and talk.

But don't forget that we are constantly being observed. Always be aware of the subject of your conversations, your language, and the sensitivities of those around you. And, don't hesitate to remind others to keep their conversations quieter.

When we're out and about in the community in uniform, we are the Air Force. Period. We're here to protect and aid our neighbors, not offend them or share our briefings with them.

Protecting our image and safeguarding the integrity of operational security is simple, be aware of what you say and do in public places.

## Passwords key to protecting base network

*In a December network scan, 18 percent of base users either had no passwords or easily guessed ones*

**By Sandra Lee**  
94th Airlift Wing Information Protection Officer

We need your help; information assurance is a day-to-day process to protect our information resources. As a network user, your responsibility is to protect not only the information on your computer, but the entire base's information as well.

The first line of defense our network has is your password.

In December, the Air Force Information Warfare Center performed a scan of our network and the results were alarming.

After scanning the machines on our network, 18 percent had no passwords or easily guessed passwords. This issue has been resolved, but it was worrisome to know that this condition has existed since the inception of our network.

The AFIWC team also performed a spoof of our web site and was able to obtain user identification and passwords from

several personnel.

One person providing this information is enough to allow a hacker access to our entire network. When you were granted access to the system, you were given a user ID and you had to supply a password.

Personnel around you most likely know your user ID, however your password should not be available to anyone. There is no official reason for anyone to ask for your password.

Personnel that do maintenance on your system have adequate access to do so without your password. If your password is required for setting up programs on your system, you should put it in yourself.

If you suspect your password has been compromised, you should change it immediately. You should guard your password with the same level of protection you provide when locking your doors at night, removing the keys from your car and securing valuables.

Many network policies are in effect to ensure you're supplying an effective password and comply with Air Force Manual 33-223, Identification and Authentication.

Password protection is a key element in assuring network and information security. Don't be a weak link in the chain.



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*Submission deadline for the April issue is March 7. Articles should be submitted electronically to the 94th AW/PA office. The email address is [94aw.pa@dobbins.af.mil](mailto:94aw.pa@dobbins.af.mil). For more information, contact public affairs at 678-655-5055.*

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## Employers Day -- Saturday June 7

Nomination forms will be available during the March unit training assembly



# Night vision goggles give pilots infinite focus

NVG maintenance plays pivotal role in allowing crews to fly in darkness



Tech. Sgt. Mickey Smith collimates a pair of NVGs during a periodic maintenance check.

**Story and photos by  
Senior Airman David Atchison  
Public Affairs**

The C-130s at Dobbins Air Reserve Base don't use headlights at night anymore.

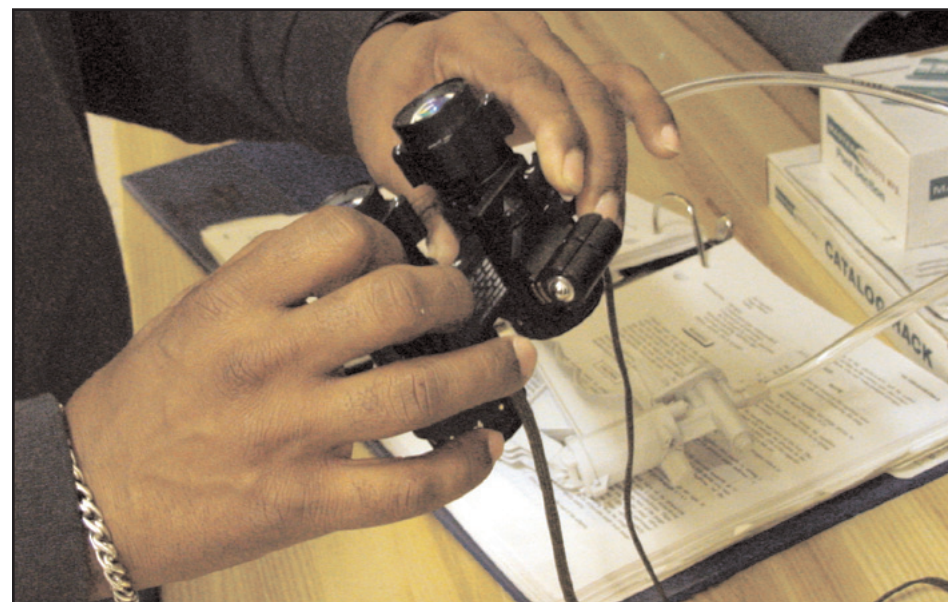
With night operations becoming more common, night vision goggles (NVGs) have become par for the course for the students and instructors of the 700th Airlift Squadron.

Using the ambient light of the moon and stars, NVGs give aircrews the capability to perform night drop missions,

night landings and take offs in almost total darkness. The outer lenses of the goggles collect and amplify available light, allowing pilots and aircrew members to function as if it were daytime.

"Though the goggles enable the pilots to see in low-light areas, if not properly maintained, they can negatively effect the wearer's depth perception," said Tech. Sgt. Mickey Smith, 700th Airlift Squadron night vision goggle maintenance technician. Smith is responsible for the maintenance of the NVGs including collimation.

"Collimation is the process of align-



ing the goggles," continued Smith. "Prolonged usage of the goggles can cause the outer lenses to become misaligned."

Misalignment of the lenses can cause a pilot to see an object twice (double vision). It can also cause the pilots severe headaches because the human eye naturally tries to correct the alignment problem. When the eye tries to adjust to a misaligned lenses, it causes fatigue in the optical muscles, ultimately causing severe headaches for the wearer.

Collimation is only one part of the inspections performed to ensure the NVGs are safe and effective, added Smith.

"To ensure the goggles are operating at an optimum efficiency, NVGs are given four inspections in a six-month period," said Smith. NVGs are given a 90-day inspection, a 180-day inspection, a pre-flight check and a post flight check.

Before a mission, NVG wearers are placed in a 20-20 tester. The 20-20 tester is a small box-like device that houses a vision tester. NVG wearers place their heads inside the box and test themselves to ensure the goggles are focused to infinity.

"When pilots fly a plane, they have to be able to see as far ahead as possible," said Smith. "To compensate for the eyesight range needed, the goggles are focused to infinity."

All NVG wearers take a training course to help them understand infinite focus

"The course I teach gives aircrew

members a basic understanding of the NVGs and how to use them," said Master Sgt. Terry Studstill, 700th AS FTU evaluator flight engineer.

Studstill teaches a 4-hour ground-training course to all aircrew members before an individual begins training. The final part of NVG training involves certified training for the newcomers in the use of the NVGs as it pertains to their specific crew positions on the aircraft.

"Our instructors are extremely qualified in the use of NVG's and they maintain high proficiency in their use," said Lt. Col. Daniel Kornacki, 700th Airlift Squadron commander.

Staying proficient in the use of

NVGs requires more training than daytime operations, therefore more training sorties. In the near future, every night mission will use the capabilities of NVG's.

"The goggles are reliable, and well maintained by the life support section," added

Kornacki. "They

ensure every set of goggles is ready for each NVG sortie. They have done an outstanding job learning how to maintain and to operate these, and to their credit have had zero incidents involving NVG's."

The NVGs are an asset to the 700th, according to Col. Heath Nuckolls, 94th Operations Group commander.

"I'm glad we have such experts here to help maintain the goggles and train the students in their usage," said Nuckolls. "The effectiveness of the NVGs is a team effort from the pilots to the maintenance troops who take care of the goggles."

**"Though the goggles enable the pilots to see in low light areas, if not properly maintained, they can negatively effect the wearer's depth perception,"**

**Tech. Sgt. Mickey Smith  
700th AS**



# First Dobbins troops receive Smallpox vaccinations

By Senior Airman Micky Cordiviola  
Public Affairs

On Feb. 2 the first wave of smallpox vaccinations began flowing through the ranks. Priority mobilization members were the first Dobbins members to receive the inoculations.

"Most people in this room have already had the smallpox vaccination and we are still alive," said Maj. (Dr.) Curtiss Cook. "For anyone who may have concerns about receiving this vaccination, just remember that this was a very common vaccination just a generation ago."

During a smallpox briefing many questions related to family and job seemed to be the dominant concern. Many members were curious about how many family and job adjustments they were going to have to make as a

result of the vaccination.

"Prior to the briefing, I had a lot of people from the unit come to me with many questions," said Master Sgt. Ken Ward, 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron first sergeant. "Many of the concerns were related to their civilian job and how this may temporarily affect the type of work they do. Many people asked questions about how to conduct themselves around children in their homes."

After receiving a smallpox vaccination, the shot recipient must keep the affected area covered with a bandage. Touching the affected area and not properly washing hands before coming in contact with other body parts can spread it. It is a good idea to wear clothing that properly covers the area when coming in contact with others.

"The best way to avoid the spread of the injected area is proper hygiene," said Cook. "If you touch the

injection area by accident, wash your hands immediately. Do not let others touch the vaccination site or materials that touched it."

If the vaccination is successful, a red, itchy bump develops at the vaccination site in 2-4 days. Over the next few days, the bump becomes a blister and fills with pus. During the second week, the blister begins to dry up and a scab forms. The scab falls off in the third week, leaving a scar.

Anyone who does not get the expected reaction needs to be revaccinated.

"This is my fourth time receiving the smallpox vaccination," said Col. James Glenn, 94th AW vice commander. "I made sure I was the first person to receive the shot because I would never ask anybody to do something that I am not willing to do."

## Smallpox 101: What you need to know

By 2nd Lt. Lance Patterson  
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE Ga.** — As rumors of biological war intensify, the United States is taking precautions to protect its military people and their civilian counterparts from the threat of smallpox.

Government officials are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst. Here are some basic facts and information about the deadly virus that the general public needs to know:

Smallpox is a serious, contagious disease that, in most cases, kills 30 percent of the time. It spreads through face-to-face contact, infected bed linens or body fluids. In rare cases, it can spread through the air and enclosed space.

Symptoms that accompany smallpox include a fever of 101 to 104 degrees, head

and body ache, and occasionally abdominal pain and vomiting.

Prevention of the disease is done by the smallpox vaccine, which uses a live virus called vaccinia, which is related to smallpox.

Pregnant women, people with HIV, chemotherapy, or people with skin disorders should not take the vaccine.

Adverse reactions to military directed vaccines are line-of-duty conditions. Members of Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard will be in a "duty status" when they receive vaccines directed by the military. If the injury or illness is incurred performing inactive duty or active duty for less than 31 days, they are entitled to treatment for that injury or condition.

An immunization can prevent infection for three to five years and death or severe illness for at least 10 years.

### SMALLPOX VACCINATION PROGRAM



Disease and vaccination information is available at the following Web sites:

[www.smallpox.gov](http://www.smallpox.gov).

[www.vaccines.army.mil](http://www.vaccines.army.mil).

[www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp).

[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/smallpox.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/smallpox.html).

[www.hopkins-biodefense.org/pages/agents/agentsmallpox.html](http://www.hopkins-biodefense.org/pages/agents/agentsmallpox.html).

## No serious side effects reported for newly vaccinated troops

By 2nd Lt. Lance Patterson  
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE Ga.** — According to officials at Walter Reed Medical Center, none of the more than 200 military medical people vaccinated there for smallpox in late December experienced serious ill effects.

Most of them are soldiers assigned to the Washington, D.C., facility. They were among the first military medical people to be immunized in preparation to vaccinate members of the U.S. military against a possible bioterrorism attack.

According to Lt. Col. Richard P. McCoy, command bioenvironmental engineer at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, six of those vaccinated experienced side effects that caused them to lose one day of work.

"These side effects were flu-like symptoms associated with the body's mechanism to develop antibodies to the vaccinia virus used in the smallpox vaccine," he said.

Since reservists must be in a military status to receive the vaccine, they will be covered under line of duty for any medical care required as a result of receiving

the vaccination. Symptoms of the vaccine normally show up a few days after getting the immunization and last only a day or two. However, in the rare event a long-term reaction were to occur, the member would be covered.

Reservists and their household members will be prescreened before the vaccinations are given to the reservists.

To prevent the spread of the virus, a strict series of precautions will be followed. Inoculated medical people will be evaluated daily before being allowed to be in contact with patients.

This monitoring continues until the scab left by the vaccination falls off.

If a reservist has a medical condition — eczema, atopic dermatitis or pregnancy — that prevents the person from getting the immunization, the vaccination is deferred either until the condition clears or after an actual smallpox exposure event.

If household members have any of these conditions, the vaccination of reservists will be deferred until they deploy to a high-risk area.

If family members contract the vaccinia, they would

be eligible for medical care or reimbursement under the Secretary of the Air Force Designee Program (Air Force Instruction 41-115, Chapter 2). Reservists would contact their local Reserve medical unit to initiate this process.

Lt. Col. John Grabenstein of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program Agency in Falls Church, Va., said military people are mostly young healthy adults and therefore will probably have fewer side effects than the general population.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted nationwide studies on the risks of the smallpox vaccine back in the 1960s.

These studies show one or two people die and 15 to 52 suffer serious illness for every million persons vaccinated.

The most common serious effects include encephalitis, brain inflammation, and several potentially deadly rashes and skin conditions.

But in those who have been previously vaccinated, the rates fell to one death in every 4 million vaccinees. There were none from encephalitis, regarded as the most dangerous side effect because it cannot be predicted.



## Combat Dining In postponed

The Top Three sponsored Combat Dining In scheduled for April has been postponed. Watch base bulletin boards and check the *Minuteman* for reschedule details.

## Dinner and a play

Get ready for some dinnertime fun as the Dobbins Consolidated Club invites you to a members-only evening of theater on March 28. Tickets go on sale at 9 a.m., March 4, for the play *A Gentleman and a Scoundrel*. Ticket prices are \$25.00 per person and the menu choices are Chateau Briand or pastry crusted salmon. For more information, call the club at 678-655-4594.

## Consolidated Club offers new games

The scene at the Dobbins Consolidate Club has gone digital in its lounge as it's out with the old jukebox and in with a new state-of-the-art digital jukebox. Linked to the Internet, the new tune machine gives you access to thousands of great music selections at great prices. Whether you're into rock, pop, blues, hip-hop, country or jazz, the new jukebox is sure to meet your musical taste. If music isn't your game, try the new Megaforce Game System that provides you and your friends gaming experiences with new and different challenges. Top players are tracked, so see if you can be number 1.

## Spring Fun Run

The Fitness Center wants to help reservists spring into March as it sponsors a Fun Run at 11:30 a.m., March 12. The fastest runner receives a party certificate and all participants who complete the 2.2-mile run receive prizes. For more information, contact the Fitness Center at 678-655-4872.

## Softball season startup

Time to break out the bats and dust off the gloves. The spring softball season is almost here. A mandatory coaches meeting will be held 5 p.m., March 26, in Bldg. 558. You must present team rosters at this meeting. The season begins April 2. Games begin at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Team membership is open to all military, DOD civilian employees and family members over 18-years old with an ID card. For registration procedures, call 678-655-4872.

## Hawks vs. Indiana Pacers

The Atlanta Hawks play the Indiana Pacers on



Photo by Don Peek

## Valentines for Veterans

**Tech. Sgt. Royce Draughn recently took some time out to visit hospitalized veteran's like Lerster Pritchett. Mr. Pritchett is the father of Master Sgt. Gwen Herndon, 94th Logistics Support Squadron.**

March 22, and you could be at Phillips Arena watching all the action. The Dobbins ARB package includes a ticket to the game, transportation from Dobbins and a Chick-Fil-A combo meal for \$30 per person. Space is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline for sign-up is Feb. 21. For more information, call 678-655-4870.

## Officer association offers scholarships

The Military Officers Association of America provides \$1,000 college scholarships at random to sons and daughters of military personnel, including reservists in the Air Force Reserve Command. Deadline to complete the online application form is March 1.

Formerly known as The Retired Officers Association, the MOAA will honor 100 college-bound or current undergraduate students with individual \$1,000 scholarship grants for the 2003-2004 school year. The MOAA Base/Post Scholarship program is part of an ongoing effort to assist young people in military families.

Of the few eligibility requirements, applicants must be under 24 and provide basic information such as their SAT score and college. If an applicant served in the military before attending college, the maximum age for eligibility is increased by the number of service years, up to five years.

Membership in the MOAA is not mandatory, and there is not a GPA requirement for selection. Semifinalists will be notified by e-mail in March and may be asked to provide more detailed information. The scholarships will be dispersed by late August. For information and to apply for the MOAA Base/Post Scholarship program, go to [www.moaa.org/Education/2003](http://www.moaa.org/Education/2003). (AFRC News Service)

## AF Academy/ROTC information

Airmen interested in continuing their Air Force career are invited to attend and information session March 22 for the U.S. Air Force Academy and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship opportunities.

The session will be from 10 a.m. to noon at the Air Force ROTC detachment at the Georgia Institute of Technology campus. This session is open to active duty, Guard and reserve enlisted members. For more information, contact Maj. Matt Young at 678-364-1898.

## Family Support news

### Single parent support group

Recognizing that single parents have unique circumstances and needs, Dobbins ARB in conjunction with NAS Atlanta has started a single parent support group.

The support group helps ease some of the stresses of being a single parent, especially in a military environment that requires many to travel and work week-ends. The group has discussions on topics of interest, shares information, provides fellowship, and receives advice from guest speakers. The group meets monthly at Bldg. 80, Family Service Center, NAS Atlanta. The group includes anyone assigned to Dobbins ARB and NAS Atlanta who fit the definition of a single parent including:

- ✓ Custodial or non-custodial parent
- ✓ Active duty, Reserve, Guard or civilian employee

✓ Spouse on extended temporary duty or permanent change of station

For more information contact Senior Master Sgt. Sammy Samfield at 678-655-3622 or Janine Bemis 678-655-6735, ext., 117.

### Contacting the Family Support Center

There are several ways you can contact the 94th FSC - Commercial phone - 678-655-5004

DSN - 625-5004

Webpage - [www.afrc.af.mil/22af/94aw/fr\\_default.asp](http://www.afrc.af.mil/22af/94aw/fr_default.asp)

E-Mail - [94sptg.fr@dobbins.af.mil](mailto:94sptg.fr@dobbins.af.mil)

By mail - 94th AW/FS

1430 First Street

Bldg 838, Rm. 2313

Dobbins ARB, GA 30069-5010

## Security Forces get new "Crimestop" number

The 94th Security Forces Squadron control center has a new number.

On base, the number is 5-2677. The number spells out "COPS" on a telephone key-pad. The off base number is 678-655-2677. The number is used to report suspicious activities noticed on or off the installation, reporting crimes or incidents. The number does not replace 911 for emergencies. It is another tool for the base public to assist the security forces in being the "eyes and ears" of the installation.



# Computer simulator system gives weapons qualifiers an electronic option

By Senior Airman Reid Hanna  
Public Affairs

Weapon qualification is a mobility requirement that can take from one day to several unit training assemblies to finish.

While spending time at the 94th Security Forces squadron combat arms training range, most people become familiar with weapon qualification, but know nothing about the Squad Engagement Training System or the people operating the equipment.

The SETS is a system of several computers and projectors that simulate weapons used by U. S. armed forces and project an environment for simulated combat. Carbon dioxide tanks are connected to the weapons to cause recoil and other effects to simulate the feel of firing supported weapons.

A single simulator of the SETS is called a Fire Arms Training Simulator. Weapons supported by the FATS are M16 service rifles, M9 Berettas, M203 grenade launchers, M249 squad automatic weapons and M60 machine guns.

The system is used for weapon qualification and a wide regimen of combat training. The Air Force allows individuals to qualify using the FATS system.

"The FATS is accurate, but some find it difficult to qualify," said Master Sgt. Bernard McGeehan, the non-commissioned officer in charge of Combat Arms. McGeehan is in charge of the firing range and the SETS.

"The system is just as accurate as live firing; however, it requires a higher



Photo by Don Peek

**Master Sgt. "Mac" McGeehan takes aim with an M-60 machine gun.**

level of mechanical accuracy from the individual to effectively operate during a qualification," said McGeehan.

The SETS is most frequently used to qualify mobility personnel, according to McGeehan. Qualification on the FATS is not allowed twice in a row and it is used as an alternative to live firing.

The SETS can provide effective and varied combat training, McGeehan said. Since the system is computer based, many of the training simulation programs are adjustable.

"This is a great tool to provide all kinds of training," said McGeehan. "We

now have the ability to create our own courses of fire."

The program allows an operator to change the terrain, weather, target range, target movement, type of target and type of scoring. The system can even be used with some night vision devices.

McGeehan said security forces personnel frequently use a judgmental law enforcement scenario to train their "shoot/don't shoot" reaction.

Due to the current alert status, the combat arms range and the SETS are only available for scheduled training and qualification.

## Promotions

**Master Sergeant**  
Felicia M. Bryant  
James F. Case  
Travis G. Priest

**Technical Sergeant**  
John J. Bobelak  
Scott A. Brown  
Douglas Grant Jr.

**Staff Sergeant**  
Matthew A. Prater  
Tony C. Smith

**Airman**  
Jarrett S. Bowens

## Newly assigned

**Maj. Robert S. Brown Jr.**  
**Capt. Charles A. Worden**  
**Master Sgt. Gwen Wynell Herndon**  
**Master Sgt. Sonja Y. Wallace**  
**Staff Sgt. Virginia G. Poole**  
**Staff Sgt. Shawn J. Ravish**  
**Senior Airman Joseph S. Saldivar**  
**Senior Airman Jerome Williamson**

## UTA Schedule

SATURDAY	Activity	Time	Location	SUNDAY	Activity	Time	Location
	Deployment exercise	7 a.m. -4:30 p.m.	Bldg. 838/Bay 2		Open Ranks	6:45-7:30 a.m.	Unit assigned
	Open Ranks/Sign in	7-8:30 a.m.	Unit Assigned		M16 rifle AFQC	7:30 a.m.	Combat Arms range
	CDC study hall	7:30-10 a.m.	Bldg. 838/Rm 2304		M9 pistol AFQC	7:30 a.m.	Combat Arms range
	Wing element staff mtg	Cancelled			Physical exams	8 a.m.	Navy Clinic
	Newcomers intro	8:30-9:30 a.m.	Bldg. 838/WCR		Immunizations	8-11 a.m.	Navy Clinic
	M16 rifle AFQC	8 a.m.	Combat Arms range		NBCCD initial training	8 a.m.-noon	Bldg. 838/Room 1322
	M9 pistol AFQC	8 a.m.	Combat Arms range		HRDC Mtg	9 a.m.	Bldg. 838/WCR
	Occupational physicals	8-11 a.m.	Navy Clinic		Fam Spt volunteers mtg	9-9:30 a.m.	Bldg. 838/Room 2313
	NBCCD refresher	9-11:30 a.m.	Bldg. 838/Room 1322		Yellow Fever shots	9-10 a.m.	Navy Clinic
	Newcomers orientation	9-11 a.m.	Bldg. 838/Room 1202		Chiefs Group meeting	9-10 a.m.	Bldg. 838/Room 1202
	Deployment mgrs mtg	10-11 a.m.	Bldg. 838/WCR		CDC Exams	9 a.m.-noon	Bldg. 838/Room 2304
	First sergeants mtg	11 a.m.-noon	Bldg. 922/94th SVS		IG Complaints	10 a.m.	Bldg. 838/Room 2105
	Occupational physicals	1 p.m.	Navy clinic		Enlisted Adv Council Mtg	10-10:30 a.m.	Bldg. 838/WCR
	CDC exams	1-3 p.m.	Bldg. 838/Room 2304		30-day record review	10-11 a.m.	Bldg. 838/Room 1202
	NBCCD Refresher	1-3 p.m.	Bldg. 838/Room 1322		Cmdr's working lunch	11:30 a.m.	Consolidated Club
	Retreat (94th AES)	4 p.m.	Bldg. 922/front		Immunizations	1-3 p.m.	Navy Clinic
					Qtrly Super Safety Tng	1:15-2 p.m.	Bldg. 744, Tng Rm
					Unit PA rep meeting	2 p.m.	Bldg. 838/WCR
					Unit DP rep meeting	2-3 p.m.	Bldg. 838/Room 1322
					Sign-out	4 p.m.	Unit